

UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFIDENTIAL

PT06460

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 CARACA 04228 302254Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OCS-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/011W	

-----1E5FF5 302254Z /15

O 302030Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9360  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 004228

TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES  
NSC FOR LLORENS  
USCINSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI - ULLRICH AND PORTER

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PAGE 02 CARACA 04228 302254Z  
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/30/2012  
TAGS: PGOV, ASEC, CASC, ECON, PREL, VE  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: DECEMBER 30, 2002, 1600 LOCAL

REF: A. CARACAS 04205 AND PREVIOUS  
B. CARACAS 04214

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS  
1.5(B) AND (D).

-----  
1. (C) SUMMARY:  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 6 JUN 2027  
DATE/CASE ID: 08 MAR 2007 200503244

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-- (C) PRO-CHAVEZ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) DEPUTIES HAVE LODGED A LEGAL CHALLENGE TO STOP THE CONSULTATIVE REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2. THE SUIT WAS BROUGHT IN A SECTION OF THE COURT REGARDED AS HAVING PRO-CHAVEZ LEANINGS.

-- (C) TWO WORKING GROUPS FROM THE GAVIRIA TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET DECEMBER 30. ONE WILL REVIEW THE ISSUES OF THE CONSULTATIVE REFERENDUM AND THE PDVSA EMPLOYEES. THE OTHER WILL WORK ON A NEW DRAFT AGREEMENT.

-- (C) THE OPPOSITION STAGED SEVERAL MARCHES OVER THE DECEMBER 28-29 WEEKEND. OPPOSITION LEADERS CONTINUE TO CONSIDER A MARCH TO MIRAFLORES, BUT HAVE MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO WHEN.

-- (C) GOVERNMENT TV HAS ALLEGED A PRIVATE STATION IS AIRING "SUBLIMINAL" POLITICAL MESSAGES DIRECTED AT CHILDREN.

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PAGE 03 CARACA 04228 302254Z

B1

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2. (U) ALLEGING A "CONSTITUTIONAL FRAUD," THREE PRO-CHAVEZ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) DEPUTIES HAVE LODGED A LEGAL CHALLENGE IN THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE (TSJ) TO STOP THE CONSULTATIVE REFERENDUM CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2. DESIREE SANTOS AMARAL, DARIO VIVAS, AND JOSE KAHN, ALL PART OF PRESIDENT CHAVEZ,S RULING COALITION IN THE NA, FILED THE LEGAL ACTION ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 IN THE TSJ,S CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER. THE NON-BINDING CONSULTATIVE REFERENDUM, WHICH WOULD ASK VOTERS IF CHAVEZ SHOULD RESIGN, WAS SCHEDULED BY THE THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CNE) IN NOVEMBER BASED ON A THE COLLECTION OF MORE THAN TWO MILLION SIGNATURES. THE DEPUTIES ARGUE THAT THE CNE DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO ACCEPT THE SIGNATURES AND SCHEDULE THE REFERENDUM.

3. (C) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE TSJ HAS A SEPARATE ELECTORAL CHAMBER, THE DEPUTIES HAVE BROUGHT THEIR COURT CHALLENGE IN THE TSJ,S CONSTITUTIONAL CHAMBER, A SECTION OF THE COURT

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OAS TALKS CONTINUE: WORKING GROUPS BEGIN TASKS  
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MIXED RESULTS FOR WEEKEND MARCHES,  
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CONFIDENTIAL

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6. (C) STATE-RUN VTV (CHANNEL 8) HAS BEGUN RUNNING SPOTS  
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VTV SPOTS REFER TO A DECEMBER 12 INCIDENT, FIRST DENOUNCED BY STATE-RUN NEWS AGENCY VENPRES ON DEC. 20, IN WHICH A TEXT CORRESPONDING TO AN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY'S ADVERTISEMENT BEGAN RUNNING ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN DURING RCTV'S AFTERNOON CHILDREN'S CARTOON PROGRAMMING AND AGAIN DURING A MOVIE. THE VENPRES ACCOUNT ACCUSED RCTV OF ATTEMPTING TO "POISON CHILDREN'S MINDS WITH MESSAGES OF HATRED" THROUGH THIS "SUBLIMINAL" ACT.

B1

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SPECIFICALLY NAMING PRESIDENT CARDOZO AND PRESIDENT-ELECT  
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PAGE 01 CARACA 04228 01 OF 02 302206Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 004228

TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES  
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PAGE 01 CARACA 04228 02 OF 02 302209Z  
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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	VC-00	FRB-00
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